

Draft Minutes of the
San Joaquin River Management Program
Action Team Meeting
March 11, 2002

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Modesto, California

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

The San Joaquin River Management Program Action Team met in the Main Conference Room of the Stanislaus Building at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center in Modesto, California. There were no comments on the draft minutes of the January 8, 2002, meeting. Draft minutes from the most recent meeting and pertinent documents are posted on the SJRMP website at:

<http://www.dpla.water.ca.gov/sjd/sjrmp/index.html>

The Economic Impact on Stanislaus County of Public Land Acquisitions and Conservation Easements on Floodplain Lands along the Tuolumne and Lower San Joaquin Rivers

Dave Gallo, CSU Chico, gave a briefing on his study of the Economic Impact on Stanislaus County of Public Land Acquisitions and Conservation Easements on Floodplain Lands along the Tuolumne and Lower San Joaquin Rivers. Gallo's study used GIS data comparing 1983, 1986, 1995 and 1997 flood events to assess County economic impacts to agricultural and non-agricultural lands associated with the flooding of the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers. He is working on several scenarios to evaluate economic impacts of proposed river restoration plans. Some of the scenarios include agricultural land taken out of production, urban development, and restoration. His presentation also included a brief discussion of draft output moneys and draft income moneys for Stanislaus County. The next steps for the study are to receive comments from the advisory board and determine a plausible scenario.

Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee Report

John Shelton, DWR, updated the group on the current progress of the Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee. Shelton mentioned that the Subcommittee is on hiatus until the group on the list meets. There are no updates until further notice.

NRDC & FWUA Process

Jared Huffman, NRDC and Mario Santoyo, FWUA, gave a presentation on the joint restoration project on the San Joaquin River. The project encompasses the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the Merced River confluence. The project goals are to restore natural ecological processes that include spawning habitat for the Spring-run Chinook salmon, avoid adverse impacts on sufficiency and reliability to water supply, and restore self-sustaining vegetation to the floodplains. They plan to complete the project restoration and water supply plan by June 28, 2002.

SJRMP Coordinator Position Update

Ernie Taylor, DWR, updated the group on the progress of the SJRMP Coordinator position. A draft position description was presented with request for comments. The group was informed that the Coordinator will be hired under the Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement process. The review committee includes Paula Landis, DWR, Ernie Taylor, DWR, Dan Fults, FWUA, Rhonda Reed, DFG, Ann Chrisney, RHJV, and Cesar Blanco, USFWS. A final position description is being prepared and interviews will take place in early April. The position description will also be posted on the website.

Comp Study Update

Kevin Elcock, DWR Comp Study and Sara Schultz, USACE Comp Study, gave an update on the Comprehensive Study. A working paper on regional projects was passed out at the meeting. The list includes the Lower San Joaquin and Upper San Joaquin River regional projects, and a system-wide reservoir re-operation project. The Comp Study is focusing on these projects in an attempt to achieve consensus on project elements.

Next Action Team Meeting: May 13, 2002 at 1:00 pm in Modesto.

SJRMF ACTION TEAM MEETING
of
March 11, 2002

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